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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. Canceled.

9.-12. Withdrawn

13. Canceled

14. Cancelled

15. Withdrawn

16.-18. Canceled

19. Withdrawn

20. Canceled.

21.-24. Withdrawn

25. (New) The luminescent photostable reaction product of a component and a water soluble dye selected from the group consisting of sulphoindolenine- and naphthosulphoindolenine-based polymethine dyes which contains at least one substituent to make said dye covalently reactive with said component, the individual dye molecules on said component having an average molar extinction coefficient of at least 50,000 liters per mole centimeter, an average quantum yield of at least 5 percent and said dye absorbs and emits light maximally in the 400 to 900 nm range when the photostable reaction product is in an aqueous environment.

26. (New) A luminescently labelled component of an aqueous liquid comprising a water soluble luminescent dye selected from the group consisting of sulphoindolenine- and naphthosulphoindolenine-based polymethine dyes, said dye being covalently reactive with and being bound to said component, the individual dye molecules on said component having an average molar extinction coefficient of at least 50,000 liters per mole centimeter, an average quantum yield of at least 5 percent and absorbs and emits light maximally in the 400 to 900 nm range when the labelled component is in an aqueous environment.

27. (New) The luminescently labeled component according to claim 26 wherein said component contains an amine, aldehyde, sulphydryl or hydroxyl group.

28. (New) The labelled component according to claim 25 or claim 26, wherein said component is selected from antibodies, proteins, peptides, enzyme substrates, hormones, lymphokines, metabolites, receptors, antigens, haptens, lectins, toxins, carbohydrates, sugars, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, nucleotides, derivatised nucleotides, nucleic acids, deoxynucleic acids, derivatised nucleic acids, derivatised deoxynucleic acids, DNA fragments, RNA fragments, derivatised DNA fragments, derivatised RNA fragments and drugs.

29. (New) A protein, nucleic acid, cell, sugar or carbohydrate having at least one amino or hydroxyl group labelled with a luminescent dye selected from the group consisting of sulphoindolenine- and naphthosulphoindolenine-based polymethine dyes

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which contains at least one substituent to make said dye covalently reactive with said protein, nucleic acid, cell, sugar or carbohydrate.

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